salaries of its employees with effect from Ist May, 1989; and

(b) if so, whether the amounts deducted have been deposited with the provident fund Commissioner, New Delhi or with the Provident Fund Trust of ITDC and if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Ashok Restaurant at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi is a separate new unit commissioned by the ITDC in April, 1986. Being a new unit of the Corporation and employing more than 50 persons, it was eligible for 3 years' grace period for deductions/deposit of Provident Fund under Employees Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952. ITDC, therefore, requested the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Delhi after 3 years to allot a code number. The request of ITDC has not been agreed to on the ground that the Corporation has its own Provident Fund Trust. Against this decision of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner the ITDC has filed an appeal in the Delhi High Court. The Court has granted interim stay orders and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Oil Gas reserves in Khashi Mara River Valley

961. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated ocurrence of oil and gas in the Khashi Mara river valley in Meghalaya;

(b) the infrastructure in place for exploitation of the oil well;

(c) whether there is a plan to conduct the oil by pipeline to a refinery; and

(d) whether the oil deposit bestraddles India and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No drilling has so far taken place in Khashi mara river valley.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Natural Gas for Bihar

962. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the State of Bihar for allocating natural gas from the Bombay high and other centres to enable it to establish gas based industries and power houses, in the state;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) While a request had been received from the Bihar Government for allocation of gas by extension of the HBJ pipeline, in view of the present availability of gas there is no proposal to extend the pipeline to Bihar.

Development of tourist places in Bihar

963. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal under its consideration to develop the places of religious importance in the State of Bihar as important tourist spots;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has offered any cooperation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The Preparation of schemes/project proposals for development of tourism in the State and the development of tourist spots therein is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them and dependent upon the availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and their merits. The Department has sanctioned financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure at Vaishali, Nalanda, Bodhagaya, Rajgir, Gaya and Valmiki Nagar, which are also places of religious importance. According to the scheme, State Governments have to provide developed piece of land free of cost and maintain facilities set-up for tourists.

Permits to private taxi operators

964. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agencies to whom air taxi operators permits have since been issued; and

(b) the details of agencies which have started air taxi services and the details of routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The following six air taxi operators have obtained permits for running air taxi services:

1. M/s. India International Airways Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

2. M/s. Delhi Gulf Airways Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

3. M/s. U. B. Air Private Ltd., Bangalore.

4. M/s. Air Asiatic Ltd., Madras.

5. M/s. Trans Bharat Aviation Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

6. M/s. Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal.

Air Taxi operators are free to operate to all airports open to operation of scheduled air services.

Installation of Three Phase Electric Line in Village Bara in Pauri Garhwal, U.P.

965. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to instal a three phase electric line in village Bara under Pauri Garhwal district, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the village would be linked by three phase electric line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lack of Vehicles with D.E.S.U.

966. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the D.E.S.U. is totally ill-equipped for preventive service or post-breakdown service largely on account of lack of transport vehicles to the various D.E.S.U. service centres in the Capital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only one vehicle is available for the